

FISCAL NOTE

SB 1715 - HB 2102

March 5, 2007

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires Economic and Community Development (ECD) to establish a program (ConnectTN) designed to provide access to computer technology and the internet via broadband technology to Tennesseans living throughout the state. Identifies the specific goals for the program. Authorizes ECD to enter into agreements with not-for-profit organizations to implement program.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

Assumptions:

- According to ECD, the department is currently processing a three-year contract (to become effective March 2007), for developing eCommunity Leadership Teams, increasing the availability and use of broadband technology in the state, and increasing home computer ownership.
- The state of Kentucky developed a very similar program in October 2004 as the program proposed in this legislation. Initial studies for Kentucky revealed that broadband technology was available to approximately 60% of Kentucky households prior to program implementation.
- According to ECD, broadband access is currently available to over 90% of Kentucky households. Kentucky expects to be at 100% by the end of calendar year 2007.
- Broadband technology is currently available to 60% of Tennessee households.
- According to ECD, the department believes that the above-mentioned contract will meet the intent and provisions of this legislation.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director